

# Stewardship and Gift Aid

Julia Gough, Stewardship Officer

As All Saints' Stewardship Officer, I, with our treasurer, Colin Bird, am responsible for collecting the Gift Aid on your donations. This is a very important part of All Saints' finances. Last year we claimed £16,700 through Gift Aid. But there are some important rules to follow to enable us to do this.

## **Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's**

Some people (but not many) argue that claiming gift aid is wrong because we are depriving public services of tax revenue.

Current Government policy is that charitable donations fulfil an important social function and may therefore be made out of our pre-tax income. If you are a basic rate taxpayer we can claim back the tax you have already paid on the donation, so a £100 donation is worth £125 to All Saints. If you are a higher rate tax payer, All Saints receives the same amount, but you can claim back the rest of the tax, another £25 on a £100 donation, through your tax return. So, a donation that effectively costs you £75 is worth £125 to the Church.

If your annual income is below £11,850 (in the 2017-2018 tax year) you will not be a taxpayer. In this case please do not try to gift aid your donations. You could receive a large (if you are generous) and very unwelcome tax bill for all the tax that charities have claimed back.

All Saints Stewardship Scheme exists to enable you to give regularly and, if possible, gift aid your donations. I can provide you with a gift aid form which covers all your donations and set of weekly envelopes or the details to enable you to set up a standing order. If you are not in the Stewardship Scheme but can gift aid your donation, please use one of the gift aid envelopes at the back of the Church and fill it in legibly.

## **The two shall become one flesh**

So said Jesus, but not the Taxman. Please don't write "Joe and Mary Bloggs" on a gift aid envelope: gift aided donations must come from an individual. It is important that the money comes from the person making the gift aid declaration, so for standing orders you should be one of the named account holders on the account the donation comes from.

For the reasons outlined above it often makes sense for the person who pays tax at the highest rate to be the one who makes the donations.

## **Let not your left hand know what your right hand is doing**

As far as possible your gifts are kept confidential. I have to keep records of gift aided donations for tax purposes, Colin uploads my spreadsheets to the tax authorities and a small number of people deal with collections after services.

## **No-one builds a tower without first counting the cost**

Unfortunately, Colin has done this and worked out that we are heading for a sizeable (£9,000) deficit in 2018 so, if you are not currently giving, please consider if this is something you could do and, if you are, please consider whether it is time for you to increase your contribution.

## **Silver and gold have I none but such as I have I give**

God values all donations, whether large or small.

If you can't afford to give much financially, don't worry; you are still a valuable member of our Church family and there are lots of other ways you can contribute.